

My name is Sharon Cly-Stryker of the Dine tribe. I am Ashiihi Nooda'i, born for Kinyaa' aanii. My cheii is Todich'ii'nii, and my nali of the Bit'ahnii clan. My husband's name is Don Stryker. He is working on his doctoral dissertation, which studies teacher working conditions at schools on reservation communities, at the University of Utah (UU). Daughter Charity graduated from the UU College of Communication and son Sheldon graduated from Arizona State University College of Fine Arts. I am an alumni of Kayenta MVHS Mustangs.

After working thirteen years as a classified employee with the Kayenta Unified School District #27 (KUSD #27), I went back to school and pursued an education degree. I obtained my B.S. degree in Elementary Education and a MEd. in School Counseling from the UU. As a licensed educator, I taught elementary school children for several years, and worked as a school counselor as well. With my educational background, qualifications, and having worked with diverse students, it is an honor to run as a school board candidate for the KUSD #27.

I believe that:

Accountability

- starts from the top
- reflects student achievement/reduces the achievement gap
- ensures quality instruction/high expectations
- is data driven/savvy
- improves decision making
- requires retention of teachers
- reflects grades given to schools

Communication

- includes all STAFF (certified/classified)
- gets teacher input (meet & confer)
- encourages and improves parent involvement
- requires administrative responses in writing to public concerns
- fosters and promotes a welcoming atmosphere
- increases productivity and motivation within the school setting
- eliminates confusion, conflict, and misunderstanding

I believe in Equity:

- increases educational opportunities/eliminates obstacles
- gives each child a fair chance to learn (read, write, and arithmetic)
- disperses (monetary & non-monetary) resource equitably amongst regular classrooms, gifted, ELP, ESS, RTI, science and technology, CTE, and library
- caps class-size (fair and inclusively)
- provides training/strong PD for all staff
- practices consistency in the school's discipline policies (fair & equitable)
- practices fair hiring

In closing, I believe that children can learn, and become contributing citizens of our society (t'aabi ak'inaaldzil). I believe the notion of 'Children First' should be revisited and reemphasized with our

Dine and Western school culture. 'Alchini Altse' is not a new idea, it has always been a vision of our elders and the teachings of many diverse sects. For example, as soon as one get in a vehicle, it warns the passengers, including children, to buckle up. Our Dine elders expected us to attain a good education (olte bidziiligi) in hope of a career or job (naanish bidziiligi), return home, and pick up from where they left off, nihighada'doljil or nihidahnidahidok'ah. Even today, my pastor teaches us what it looks like and what it sounds like to train a child; unfortunately, our schools are challenged by low student achievement and low school grades. I believe the notion of 'Alchini Altse' needs to be valued, embraced, and revisited amongst all stakeholders.

